

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 24. 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst., in which you state that some dissatisfaction has been expressed at the small amount of coinage at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, since the newly appointed officers entered upon their duties, and ask whether, in my opinion, this complaint has a reasonable foundation.

In reply, I have to mention, first, that the Coiner, Mr. Tyler, entered upon his office on the 17th of November, and immediately gave his attention to the selection of workmen, and the repairs and arrangement of the machinery of his Department, but could not lawfully commence coining until the Melter & Refiner, Dr. Riddell, should enter upon the discharge of his duties. Now, in consequence of the absence of this gentleman, on a botanical and geological tour in the wilds of Texas, he did not even hear of his appointment until the beginning of December, and did not give his official bonds until the 9th of that month. Under these circumstances, the coinage, up to the end of the year,

of 75,396 pieces of coin, amounting to \$33,490, ought not, I think, to give rise to any dissatisfaction.

I am not informed of the amount of Coinage at New Orleans since the commencement of the year, but my last letters from that Mint are written in a tone of confidence, and give me the assurance, on which I count much for the success of the establishment, that "Harmony and good feeling prevail among the officers".

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

P. M. Patterson,
(Director.)

To

Am. Levi Woodbury, }
Secretary of Treasury.